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Docket No.: 1872/03700

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Nobuhiro FUNASAKO; Tomihisa NADABE; Naoki TANI

14402

Serial No.: 09/945,255

Confirmation No.:

Filed: August 31, 2001

For: TUFTED CARPET AND BACKING FABRIC

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Hon. Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In order to comply with 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of the documents listed thereon.

In accordance with MPEP Sections 609 and 707.05(b), it is requested that each document cited (including any cited in applicant's specification which is not repeated on the attached Form PTO-1449) be given thorough consideration and that it be cited of record in the prosecution history of the present application by initialing Form PTO-1449 next to the document. Such initialing is requested even if the Examiner does not consider a cited document to be sufficiently pertinent to use in a rejection, or otherwise does not consider it to be prior art for any reason, or even if the Examiner does not believe that the guidelines for citation have been fully complied with. This is requested so that each document becomes listed on the face of the patent issuing on the present application.

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A concise explanation of the relevance of the foreign language documents as required by 37 CFR 1.98 is attached. On information and belief, this concise explanation is from the point of view of that person identified in 37 CFR 1.56 who is most familiar with the subject matter.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR 1.56, but the citation of such document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner, in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104(a) and 1.106(b) and, in the course of each search,

will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

It is believed that no fee is due because this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted before receipt of a first Office Action on the merits. However, if the Commissioner determines that a fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the above deposit account for any deficiency.

Early and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 7, 2002



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